

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I stand before you to share the passing of a legendary news and sports broadcaster, an accomplished musician, a father, friend, and son of Hawaii, Robert Kaleimomi Kekaula, who unexpectedly passed away last Saturday in Hawaii at 56 years of age.

In order to tell you about Robert, I must do so with great respect to his chosen career path and success as the consummate communicator.

Where, when, and how quickly he acquired his excellent skills, whether at his high school alma mater, the Kamehameha Schools, the University of Hawaii, where he earned a bachelor's degree in communications, or throughout his experience as a Native Hawaiian growing up on Hawaii Island, I can't say.

Yet what I can say with certainty is that Robert held the powerful ability of talking to people; not about people, but to people. And he did it exceedingly well, with thousands, including myself, for 35 years in the broadcast industry.

It is quite possible that his talents were not learned skills at all, but, rather, God-given gifts that he so willingly shared with all of us. I would be hard-pressed to find a living room or dining table in Hawaii that did not at some point during that time welcome in Robert Kekaula and his daily evening news and sports reports.

The reason, Robert connected with people. For him, people came first, before the stories, before the news. He understood that the primary role of the news, of the media was to improve people's lives. It was not to be sensational. It was not to stoke conflict. It was to inform.

That sincerity, that genuine care, from a man with that unmistakable baritone voice and dominant presence, made people comfortable to watch him; moreover, comfortable to share the details of their lives with him, and the audience who leaned in to listen and learn.

Described as a perfectionist, he held himself and others to three requirements in the newsroom. What went out of his newsroom and into the living rooms had to be correct, pertinent, and helpful to Hawaii.

He had a photographic memory for detail. He was a wordsmith. He had the ear of key figures in Hawaii sports. He was proud of the local kids who made it. He was all about Hawaii.

His reach into our homes did not stop with him, however, because Robert made it a point to share his knowledge. As a mentor, he could see in young journalists what others could not see.

He opened his door to those who otherwise had doors closed in their faces. And just as folks welcomed him into their homes, Robert would welcome aspiring broadcasters into his home of sports and news.

Many young men and women he mentored went on to become sports anchors, as well as news reporters, and

every single one of them was better for having Robert in their lives.

His bright Aloha shirts became his mainstay. He became synonymous with them. He was rarely seen without one. And on the national circuit, the Daily Show with Trevor Noah shared a shot of Robert in his Aloha shirt, and Noah commented: "Even their newscasts are so chill."

The brightness of Robert's shirts only mirrored the brightness of his smile and the endless radiance of his Aloha spirit.

Within this skilled communicator and mentor lived a Native Hawaiian who inspired others, including myself. To see Robert on the news and the small screen gave way to other Native Hawaiians to believe they could have a career on TV, too.

In public, he was just as approachable, and friends tell me he often covered the tab for those he didn't know.

His legacy lives on through the people fortunate enough to learn from him and work with him and in the music he composed, produced, and performed alongside his daughter, Tiera, and through his family and friends whom he loved dearly.

"A'ohe mea nana e ho'opuhili, he moho no ka la makani," "there is no one to interfere, for he is a messenger of a windy day," said in admiration of a person who lets nothing stop him from carrying out the task entrusted to him.

To me and to so many others, that is the essence of Robert, who carried out the task as the consummate communicator with extreme love for Hawaii and its people.

Mahalo, Robert Kaleimomi Kekaula, for your immeasurable contributions to Hawaii. We are forever grateful, and you will be forever missed.

DR. DREW VAN HORN IS A TREMENDOUS ASSET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the president of Young Harris College, Dr. Drew Van Horn.

In 2017, Dr. Van Horn was selected as the 23rd president of Young Harris College and has been a tremendous addition to the school with his wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Dr. Van Horn has brought more than 30 years of experience in higher education to Young Harris College, including nine years as president of Brevard College in North Carolina.

As a graduate of Young Harris College, and a friend of Dr. Van Horn, I appreciate his dedication and his work on behalf of Young Harris College. I know the entire Mountain Lion community joins me in thanking Dr. Van Horn for his service to our beloved college.

Dr. Van Horn, we love you and appreciate you.

CONGRATULATING FORT STEWART

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Stew-

art as the winner of the Army Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation for a large installation.

Located southwest of Savannah, Georgia, Fort Stewart is the largest Army post east of the Mississippi River. Fort Stewart is home to the 3rd Infantry Division and seven species protected by the Endangered Species Act on 284,000 acres of pine forest, wetlands, and blackwater rivers.

The Fort's land is managed by a team tasked with balancing military readiness and environmental stewardship. This dedicated team ensures that conditions are set for soldiers to train and prepare for deployment, while also managing environmental assets that include wildlife management and cultural resource management.

The Army Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation reflects the hard work of Fort Stewart's leadership, staff, and personnel in defending not only the people of the United States, but its environment as well.

I am proud to rise today to recognize this tremendous achievement and commend the hard work of Fort Stewart soldiers.

FREDDIE'S GARAGE AND TOWING CELEBRATES 75 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Freddie's Garage and Towing in Tybee Island, Georgia.

In August of 1946, Freddie's opened on Tybee Island, Georgia. Although Freddie's transitioned from a gas station to a garage over the years, Freddie's continues to operate in their original location.

Residents of the Tybee Island community have trusted Freddie's through multiple generations. For 75 years, customers are relieved to know that Freddie's dependable service will always be there to keep their car running.

Freddie's Garage and Towing is a perfect example of a hardworking American business. As a small business owner for more than 30 years, I commend the hard work and dedication that Freddie's Garage and Towing has shown to their customers.

The team at Freddie's Garage and Towing works hard to maintain the trust of the Tybee Island community, and I congratulate them for 75 years of success.

CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who worked diligently to pass the advanced child tax credit, which will cut child poverty in half in just one year. We have a responsibility to make this money accessible to every child.

While our elder daughter, Emmy, is accounted for, our pandemic baby,